



Jan – Mar 2013
Volume 43, Issue 1
www.taxtoken.org

ATTS NEWSLETTER

Number 160



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Editor's Comments

By Mike Strub, L-504



If you would like your ATTS Newsletter electronically instead of by snail mail, please notify me at promethium@aol.com - it will save the club at least a couple of bucks per issue! And if you still want the paper but have an email address - send me that!

When I was 14, growing up in the Washington state, I discovered coin collecting. Almost at the same time, I began striving to be a coin dealer in order to support my habit! Some of the groups of coins I was offered would contain these little plastic, aluminum, and fiber discs. From some Numismatic News articles, and meeting a single solitary fellow collector of these, I learned that they were sales tax tokens. I knew of no reference work for them, and was kind of isolated from



other collectors. I decided to call them S1 through S5. The "S" stood for Strub! They corresponded, in a different sequence, with WA-S1, S4, S5, S12, and S6-11 collectively.



I was so grateful, 15 years later, to discover the Numismatic News ad for Malehorn & Davenport's reference! The book straightened me out, helped me expand my collection, and led to my joining this society. What would we do without the shining lights of this hobby who do so much research?

11 years ago I found myself out of work for the first time since graduating from college. I considered every option I could, and put resumes together for technical writing, international CAD standards development, and IT Solution Architect. It took a while for the last of those to turn into my job at Ford Motor Company, so I also briefly pursued the idea of a Numismatic career by writing a Numismatic resume.

Therefore when the call for nominations was made for officers, I had a numismatic resume practically ready to go. Plus, I decided that it was time to stop just taking and try to give back. I honestly had no idea that my entire resume would be published in the newsletter – I had only meant for the officers to see that I was qualified.

We come to the ATTS from many different directions. I come from an interest in micro-denominations and state coinage. Others may come from an interest in taxes per se; or may consider parts of our hobby as a branch of philately. This week I learned of more angles - composition; WW II; emergency money; and quasi-legal issues.

Thanks to Monte's generous contest – and to the initiative of several of our members – we have a fair number of articles this issue. Founding and Life Member Harold Allen, as a Canadian, finds that tax-related exnumia finds are scarce. So he offers one of the closest examples available to him as the topic of his contribution. Nick Sapone's fondness for fiber tokens helped me see a connection from sales tax tokens to the OPA ration tokens that I never knew before. Steve Koczan has written a thorough and scholarly article on distinguishing among the several fine varieties of New Mexico Tax Tokens. Bill Myers points out that the changing compositions of tax tokens in nine states corresponded to the demand for raw materials from our WW II effort. Our President, John Ostendorf, has written an inspiring article that I have re-read now several times - positing that our hobby may be the next undiscovered opportunity in numismatics - and that we should take advantage of it now. I will !

BTW, I will be set up at table 109, Michigan State Numismatic Society Convention, Adoba Hotel, (formerly the Hyatt), in Dearborn MI Apr.19-21. Stop by and see me if you're close enough to travel!

President's Message

By John Ostendorf, R-518

Dear fellow sales tax token collectors,

I hope this letter finds you all well. Spring is approaching. For many of you, that means no longer dealing with snow and finally being able to get outside. It's mainly just allergy season here in Texas. However, Spring is my favorite season of the year as I enjoy watching nature's renewal. Plants that were dormant come back to life, flowers bloom, and the birds come back. Warmer temps are nice too, but that tends to get out of hand here in Texas!



This is our first newsletter with Mike Strub at the helm. Obviously the editor's position is the most important position in our organization. The newsletter is our main form of communication and means to share our passion for our hobby. Bob did a great job for years with the newsletter and I'm certain Mike will as well. I look forward to reading his first newsletter.

The toughest part of Mike's job will be having enough material for the newsletter; so please help Mike by submitting an article. I wrote an article that may appear in this edition. Certainly after you read what I've written, you'll gain confidence that you can do better!

I will probably be attending the Texas Numismatic Association convention in Fort Worth on June 1st. If you plan to attend, please let me know and we'll visit.

All my best,
John

Fiber tokens

By Nick Sapone, R-517

One of my favorite hobbies for many years has been collecting all kinds of fiber tokens. Some might view them as drab or uninteresting but there is a lot to be said about the humble fiber token. They are left unstudied all too often and some of them can be more intricate than you might think. A few of them are considered rare while all of them are something special. Most collectors would be surprised by this and perhaps would give more respect to their fiber tokens if they knew more about them. Here is some information that could help you develop more interest as well.

Although fiber tokens date back to the 1890's, they were not used heavily until years later when state-issued sales tax tokens were being produced in fiber. Demand for fiber tokens was then increased again in the early to mid 1940's due to fewer available supplies of certain traditional token metals that were needed for military use. This caused fiber to be recognized as one of the best non-strategic alternatives for use in making tokens. Similar pressure was already being felt in 1941 when one mill tax tokens were made of a pressed cotton material for Oklahoma, using the same



Lissa Gotwals

dies that struck their previous metal tokens. In fact most of the early fiber tokens were "die-struck", appearing much the same as coins do, with many of them having fine details or even sculptural designs with rims. Those earliest versions are some of the most artistic and well-made fiber tokens to be found. But that was soon to change with the approaching war years and the newer, quicker, more efficient way to make fiber tokens that had been developed by one of the largest private minting companies in the country.

Meanwhile fiber tokens themselves were changing. As they increased in use they also evolved from pressed fiber alone, to other kinds of fiber mixes, then a binder was added for a tougher material that would better endure the environment of oil and moisture that would be encountered in circulation. This led to the hard, vulcanized fiber tokens that were used in the continuing Oklahoma tax token program and for many other merchant and advertising tokens of the time.



Then during WW-II along with the need for food rationing there was a need for OPA Ration Tokens as well. The Osborne Register Co. (ORCO) won the ration token contract by having the best qualifications at the right time. No doubt that was in part due to their past experience in producing fiber sales tax tokens by the millions for Oklahoma and many other kinds of tokens as well. They had also used their experience to develop a method of using a group of dies and punches to both emboss and punch out fiber tokens at the same time on each press stroke. No token company could compete with the ORCO die embossing production rate. It far exceeded any other's capacity and was necessary to fill the government's order for two billion fiber ration tokens in the short time that was allowed. This was also the largest single mintage contract of fiber tokens.

Another point of interest is that the Oklahoma fiber tax token was discontinued in 1943. With Oklahoma no longer ordering fiber tax tokens ORCO then had a lot of the large .888 inch die hardware available, which they wanted to use for the ration token contract. They were even preparing the new "Oklahoma size" dies when that project was thwarted by the government's last minute decision to increase the order to two billion ration tokens using the smaller .642 inch die. The smaller die was felt necessary to insure that the amount of uniquely prepared fiber token stock would be adequate for the increased mintage.

Wow, did you notice that part about how close we came then, to having our ration tokens being made the size of Oklahoma's larger sales tax tokens!



small

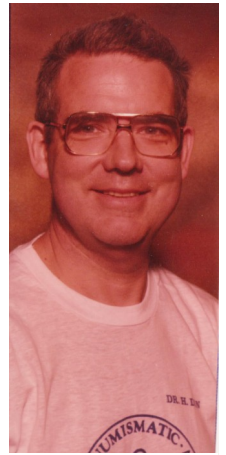
Although fiber tokens originated earlier they were used most from the time of the Great Depression through WW-II. They are the product of ingenuity tempered by economic stress in America. They are also about the same things in life and commerce that many other tokens are. Fiber tokens are also more complex than most collectors would expect them to be and some were made so differently that few people understand them well. They are an important part of our history and they continue to hold some unsolved mystery as well.



Editor's Note: The Osborne Register Company - see <http://www.osbornecoin.com/> - is located in Cincinnati, Ohio, and is still in business advertising itself as "America's Oldest Private Mint". Above is a medal they ostensibly use to advertise themselves - undoubtedly struck by them.

Post-War Canada and my Maternal Grandmother's "Radio Receiving"

By Harold Don Allen, F-30, L-30



Harold—
dressed for
"coin week"
activities circa
1983

The years prior to, during, and immediately after World War II, in Canada as elsewhere, featured a whole gamut of broadly tax-related fiscal items and practices. One of my favorites is an improbable federal license to operate a private receiving (radio) station. My maternal grandmother's license, I see by the small print, had been valid for 12 months from April, 1945, and had allowed her, in a word, to sit down and listen to a radio station.

Possession of such a license had been mandatory - \$2.50 a year at the post office, and the funds, if I read correctly, had been earmarked not to support broadcasting, but to raise revenues for stipulated government broadcasting.

My late grandmother had, I know, "retired" to a somewhat genteel rooming house in downtown Montreal, near university buildings, and \$2 a week had assured her a sizeable room with a balcony, companionship, convenient shopping, and good AM-band radio reception at \$2.50 for that 12-month license.

The higher-paced years of food and gasoline rationing, price (including rent) controls, war savings stamps and certificates, victory bond drives, and such were becoming memories, but significantly, Canada's dollar still possessed buying power that it would not know in months and years to follow.

So, allow me to present Grandmother's permit for a receiving station, and to urge you to remain alert for any and all such off-beat taxation items. Details of surviving certificate:

THIS LICENCE MUST BE KEPT ON STATION AND AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION
CETTE LICENCE DOIT ACCOMPAGNER L'APPAREIL RADIORÉCEPTEUR ET ÊTRE DISPONIBLE POUR INSPECTION

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT RADIO DIVISION 1949-50 MINISTÈRE DES TRANSPORTS DIVISION DE LA RADIO

Private Receiving Station Licence
(Issued in accordance with the provisions of The Radio Act, 1933, and the Regulations made thereunder.)
Licence de Poste Radiorécepteur Privé
(Délivrée conformément aux dispositions de la Loi sur la Radio, 1933, et des Règlements établis sous son empire.)

MONTREAL
PARK AVENUE
APR - 4 1945
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24517

(Christian Name in full) (Prénom au long) **35-92** PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS ÉCRIRE EN LETTRES D'IMPRIMERIE (Surname) (Nom de famille) **Pharm**

(Street and Number) — (Rue et numéro de l'immeuble) **Pharm**

(City or Town) — (Ville ou collage) **Montreal** (County) — (Comté) **300** (Province)

IS HEREBY LICENSED, SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH ON THE BACK HEREOF, TO ESTABLISH A PRIVATE RECEIVING STATION AND/OR TO OPERATE ONE OR MORE RADIO RECEIVING SETS INSTALLED IN THE SAID STATION, AND INTENDED SOLELY FOR AND CAPABLE OF RECEIVING BROADCASTING.

EST, PAR CETTE LICENCE, AUTORISÉ À ÉTABLIR UN POSTE RADIORÉCEPTEUR PRIVÉ ET/OU À METTRE EN SERVICE UN OU PLUSIEURS APPAREILS RADIORÉCEPTEURS INSTALLÉS DANS LEDIT POSTE, EXCLUSIVEMENT DESTINÉS ET PROPRES À RECEVOIR LA RADIODIFFUSION, CONFORMÉMENT AUX CONDITIONS ÉNUMÉRÉES AU VERSO.

AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS A L'ADRESSE CI-DESSUS ☒ IN AN AUTOMOBILE DANS UNE AUTOMOBILE ☐

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THIS LICENCE EXPIRES ON THE 31ST MARCH, 1950 - CETTE LICENCE EXPIRE LE 31 MARS 1950

RECEIVED THE SUM OF TWO DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS (\$2.50) LICENCE FEE, THIS DAY OF A.D. 19

REÇU LA SOMME DE DEUX DOLLARS ET CINQUANTE SOUS (\$2.50), REDEVANCE DUE, CE JOUR DE A.D. 19

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SALES TAX TOKENS AND SCRIP; HISTORIES, 8 ½ X 11, Case Hardbound, Monte C. Dean – Limited Signed & Numbered First Printing, First Edition of only 50 copies.

Included in this book are **3593** newspaper and magazine articles, editorials, state rules and regulation excerpts, important monographs and articles produced by some of the most informed and fluent collectors and researchers of the past 80 years, sign details issued by both the states and the merchants, advertising by both the states and merchants, rarity opinions at specific points in history, discovery articles, and a virtual cornucopia of the innumerable bits and pieces of history as it relates to sale tax and the resulting tax tokens, scrip, and related memorabilia produced because of those laws or attempted legislative actions.

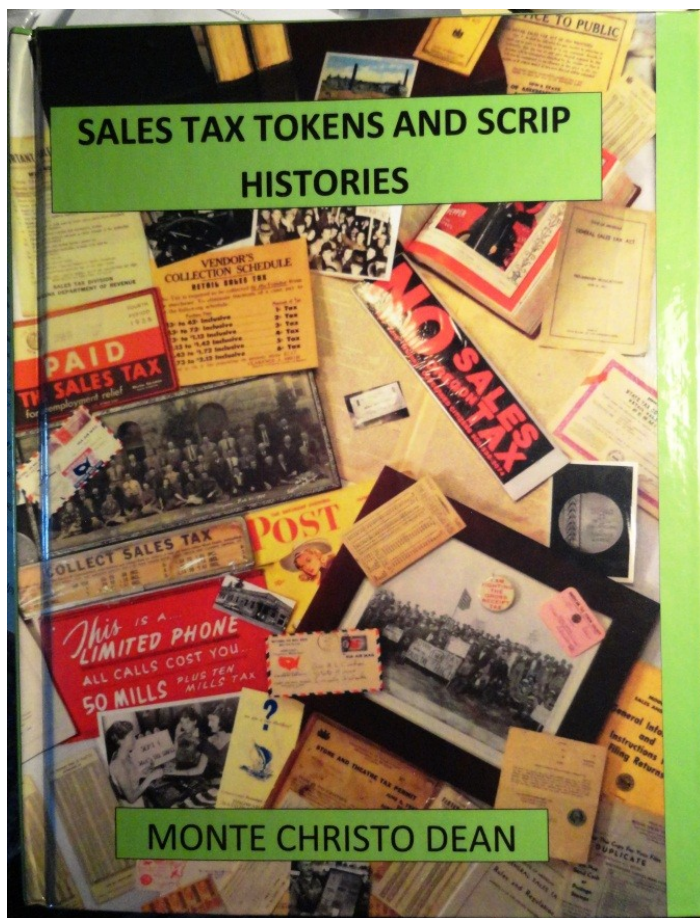
Each of these is transcribed from the original into uniform 3-column 9 point type.

Rather than write only a brief chronology for each state I have attempted to tell the historical story for each state using the actual contemporary literature discovered thus far. If you have an interest in sales tax tokens and scrip, or the countless objects of related memorabilia associated with sales tax and actually wish to connect those small pieces of metal, cardboard, paper, plastic, and wood to how they came to be, I believe this method of presentation is more inclusive. My aim is for you to be able to hold that token in your hand and travel back in time to when and why it was produced, where it was made, how it was made and who produced it, how it was used and regarded and how it represents a physical connection to a bygone era.

For those who desire the discovery of new knowledge and seek the thrill of learning I guarantee that you will find interest within these pages as it relates to the genre of sales tax tokens and scrip. This book also serves as a timeline for those who discover new items and unlisted new finds to assist in approximating much more accurately when and where those pieces were born.

Every state and the federal government are detailed with the exception of Ohio, which has its own separate book.

Each state, and the federal government, begins with a brief date chronology to pinpoint the development of the idea of sales tax for each location and particular care is given to include as much detail as is possible as it specifically relates to the sales tax tokens, scrip, and related memorabilia that was produced during that time for each locality.



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New Mexico Emergency School Tax Token Design Varieties

By Steven A. Koczan (R-448)

The purchase of a group of 160 New Mexico emergency school tax tokens in 1998 from Albuquerque coin dealer Jim Coad provided an interesting opportunity to study design and die varieties for the 1935 dated metal tokens issued by the state between 1935 and the early 1940s. The results are presented here and include an overview of the varieties followed by more detailed die descriptions. Please note that all tokens in this study are shown larger than actual size. Merlin K. Malehorn and Tim Davenport (MD) catalog numbers have been included for the major New Mexico emergency school tax token design varieties they describe (1993:194-196). And, a special thank you to Monte C. Dean for his extremely helpful review and comments.

Overview

Malehorn and Davenport (1993:193-194) and Dean (2013:572-591) provide detailed historical information on the 1934, 2% emergency school tax and the New Mexico token issues. In summary, the researchers note that New Mexico was the third state to issue tax tokens. They were released into circulation after July 1, 1935. Plastic tokens with standard industry designs replaced the metal tokens in 1942. Fiber tokens were issued at some point too. New Mexico reportedly discontinued token use July 1, 1949. The law authorizing the tokens was repealed in 1953, and the funds previously reserved for token redemption were moved to support other state government programs (Dean 2013:587).

The designs for metal New Mexico emergency school tax tokens incorporate distinctive symbols familiar to everyone in the southwestern state. The obverse design is based upon the official state seal and includes an American bald eagle grasping arrows while shielding a Mexican brown eagle with a snake in its beak and cactus in its talons. The state seal design was originally adopted in the 1860s and, as noted on the Secretary of State's internet site, depicts the 1846 change in sovereignty for the New Mexico Territory from the Republic of Mexico to the United States. The design also reflects the commitment to protect the state's culture and heritage. The state motto, *Crescit Eundo*, was added to the seal in the 1880s. Translated from Latin, the motto reads "It grows as it goes." The 1890s Whitehead & Hoag Company pin pictured below shows an early state seal design almost identical to the first design adopted for the New Mexico emergency school tax tokens.



The reverse incorporates another popular New Mexico design that has a New Mexico American Indian origin. The design is based upon the Pueblo of Zia's image for the sun and is an important symbol in the cultural and ceremonial traditions of the Pueblo. The Zia sun design, with the cooperation of the Pueblo of Zia, is now found in New Mexico on



thousands of items including license plates, souvenirs, and the state flag. The 1976 commemorative postage stamp shown above includes the New Mexico state flag with the Zia sun design.

New Mexico Variety 1 – 1 mill (MD-S1A) and 5 mills (MD-S2A)



The attractive and easy to identify state seal design adopted for this variety has both eagles looking upward. As with all of the design varieties, die wear shows that the obverse dies were used interchangeably to strike both denominations. The reverse designs for all of the varieties are similar throughout the series. However, minor reverse die design changes are noted each time a new obverse die was prepared.

New Mexico Variety 2 – 5 mills (similar to MD-S2Bb)



A significant revision to the obverse state seal design was completed and the heads of both eagles on this nicely detailed variety are now horizontal. The American bald eagle has a long neck. The legend is rotated to the right with the first "U" in "BUREAU" located directly above the eagle's eye. The reverse design includes a small "5" in the Zia sun symbol. The 5 mills reverse die design is the same as the one used for the reverse of the 5 mills Variety 3 token. I have not located a 1 mill Variety 2 token.

**New Mexico Variety 3 – 1 mill (similar to MD-S1B)
and 5 mills (similar to MD-S2Bb)**



A new artistic style for the state seal design was adopted for this token variety and the eagle designs were simplified. The American bald eagle has a shorter neck and a long feather extends down from the back of its neck to the wing. Round raised dots fill the upper portion of the wing design. The reverse of the 5 mill token has a small "5" and is the same die design used for the 5 mill Variety 2 token. The 1 mill token reverse die design is the same one used for the 1 mill Variety 4 reverse.

**New Mexico Variety 4 – 1 mill
(MD-S1B) and 5 mills (MD-S2Ba)**



The Variety 4 obverse is very similar to Variety 3 design. However, the American bald eagle has a thinner neck and there is a short feather extending down from the back of its neck. The dot pattern in the upper portion of the wings is also different. The 1 mill token reverse die design is the same as the one used for the Variety 3 token except there is now a distinctive horizontal break across the middle of the die. The reverse die for the 5 mill Variety 4 token has a large "5" in the Zia sun design.

New Mexico Variety 5a – 1 mill (MD-S1C) and 5 mills (MD-S3)



The last New Mexico metal tax tokens include another new eagle design style. There are three rows of feathers on the American bald eagle wing. No feather design is in area around the head and wings of the Mexican brown eagle. The 5 mill token includes an interesting engraving error on the reverse die. The correct denomination is shown. However, the legend is from the 1 mill token die. It states that the token is for tax on a "FIVE CENTS" instead of a "TWENTY FIVE CENTS" purchase.

Variety 5b – 1 mill (similar to MD-S1C)



The 1 mill Variety 5b token is identical to the 1 mill Variety 5a token design except the obverse die has been retouched. Raised dots have been added around the head and wings of the Mexican brown eagle. The reverse die design is the same one used for the 1 mill Variety 5a token. I have not located a 5 mill token with the retouched Variety 5b obverse design. I have not located a 5 mill token with the Variety 5a or 5b obverse state seal design and the correct "TWENTY FIVE CENTS" legend either (MD-S2C).

Obverse Die Summary



Variety 1: Both eagles looking upward with incuse letters
Letters used for motto in banner



Variety 2: Eagle heads horizontal, incuse letters long neck, bold feather and eagle head detail, raised letters in banner, detailed arrow feathers, "U" in "BUREAU" directly above eagle's eye



Variety 3: Eagle has shorter and wider neck, head below top of wings, long lower back neck feather touches wing, right eagle wing touches top center of Mexican brown eagle wing, raised dots in right wings and right arrow feathers slanted down to right, half of right American bald eagle leg visible, deep banner end indentations



Variety 4: Eagle has thin neck, top head feather further from wing than Variety 3, short lower back neck feather, right eagle wing touches right of top center of Mexican brown eagle wing, significantly different raised dot pattern, raised dots in right wings and arrow feathers slanted up to right, all of right American eagle leg visible, shallower banner end indentations



Variety 5a: Eagle wing has three separate rows of feathers, raised square shaped feathers in upper wing, no feather design around head and wings of Mexican brown eagle



Variety 5b: Identical to Variety 5a except additional raised dots for feather design added to American bald eagle wing around head and wings of Mexican brown eagle

Reverse Die Summary

(Note: Variety numbers used in this section refer to the obverse die variety that the reverse die is paired with)



Variety 1



Variety 3: Same as Variety 4
No die break



Variety 4: Same as Variety 3
Horizontal die break



Varieties 5a and 5b



Variety 3: Original die, no damage



Variety 4: Damaged Variety 3 die with horizontal break



Variety 1



Varieties 2 and 3
Small 5 and small lettering



Variety 4
Large 5



Variety 5a
"5 CENTS" Engraving Error



Varieties 2 and 3: Small 5



Variety 4: Large 5



Variety 5a: Dies are identical except for denomination lettering, same defect on left sun ray, "S" added to "MILL" on 5 mills



Summary and the Missing Varieties

The tax tokens were not a popular solution to the New Mexico emergency school tax issues for purchases that were less than a dollar. However, they had a nice design and an article published in the September 5, 1935, edition of the *Clovis New Mexico Evening News-Journal* describes students on their way to the military institute in Rowell, New Mexico, enthusiastically buying tokens as souvenirs to send home to their relatives living back east (Dean 2013:582).

Today, most of the New Mexico emergency school tax token varieties are, with a little patience, pretty easy to find. However, the 5 mill Variety 2 token and the 1 mill Variety 5b token are not as common.

And what about these token varieties? I have not located a 1 mill Variety 2 token or a 5 mill Variety 5b token. I have not located a 5 mill Variety 5 token with the correct reverse legend. And then there are the 1 mill Variety 3 and Variety 4 tokens that use the same reverse die design. Have you seen a 1 mill Variety 3 token with a reverse die break or a 1 mill Variety 4 token that does not have the break?

References Cited

Malehorn, Merlin K. and Tim Davenport

1993 *United States sales tax tokens and stamps: a history and catalog*. Jade House Publications. Bryantown, Maryland.

Dean, Monte Christo

2013 *Sales tax tokens and script; histories*. Monte Christo Dean. Spring Valley, Minnesota.

Other Token Photographs of interest...



Variety 1: Worn obverse die used for both 1 and 5 mill tokens

Variety 1: Striking error (uniface strike caused by two planchets being struck simultaneously). This is the reverse specimen.



Variety 3: Obverse die breaks at 5:30 and 8:30

Variety 4: "R" countermark

Effect of World War II on Sales Tax Tokens

By William Myers, R-570



World War II created a great demand for personnel and equipment. The manufacture of war materiel became a priority and a large portion of the United States' raw materials and industry were diverted to wartime production. One result of this was rationing, which affected the civilian population. Another was that metal was required for the manufacture of armaments and equipment and cotton for the manufacture of clothing, canvas and other equipment for our military so its use was restricted. The US monetary system was not immune to the restrictions. In 1943 zinc plated steel cents were minted and from 1942 to 1945 the 5 cents coins were composed of copper, silver and manganese. These changes decreased the amount of copper and nickel used in coin production so it could be diverted for use in wartime materiel.

Sales tax tokens were in use prior to World War II but the war restrictions caused nine states to alter the composition of their tokens. If a state used brass and aluminum for their sales tax tokens they had to find an alternative when the use of these metals became restricted because of the war. One alternative was to manufacture the tokens out of zinc. Brass shell casings for ammunition are composed of 70% copper and 30% zinc. So as the war progressed the use of zinc was also restricted. Many states then turned to pressed cotton fiber to make sales tax tokens. But even the use of cotton became restricted because of the war, so pressboard and plastic served as the final materials used to manufacture sales tax tokens. The rest of this article will examine the progression of the use of different materials used to manufacture sales tax tokens for the nine states that were affected by the war.

Alabama's first sales tax tokens, issued in 1937, were aluminum 1 mill and 5 mill tokens. The use of aluminum and brass became restricted during the war so in 1942 the composition of the 1 mill token was changed to zinc. There were two problems with this. One was that they were more expensive to make than the aluminum token. It cost 2.22 mills to make the 1 mill tokens in zinc so their cost was over twice the face value. The second problem was that the use of zinc also became restricted. The one mill tokens were then composed of pressed cotton fiber, with holed and solid versions in 1942. There was no change in the composition of the 5 mill token until 1943 when the supply of brass 5 mill tokens was exhausted. Cotton fiber could not be used because by this time the use of cotton was restricted, so the 1 and 5 mill tokens were manufactured out of plastic. By the end of World War II the restrictions on the use of strategic materials was lifted and the 1 and 5 mill tokens were both composed of pressed cotton fiber.

The second state, Arizona, released copper 1 and 5 mill tokens in 1937 and in 1939 or 1940 the composition of the 1 mill token was changed to aluminum. The wartime restrictions on the use of copper and aluminum forced the 1 mill token to be changed to zinc. When the use of zinc was later restricted, Arizona solved the problem by not manufacturing any more sales tax tokens until after the war when the 1 and 5 mill tokens were reintroduced and composed of brass.

Colorado released a square one-fifth cent token in 1935 and this was followed by an aluminum 2 mill token in 1938. The use of aluminum became restricted, so in 1942 a pressed cotton fiber 2 mill token was manufactured. When the use of cotton was restricted the 2 mill token was composed of plastic in 1943.



Mississippi utilized aluminum 1 mill and brass 5 mill tokens in 1936. In 1941, due to the restriction on the use of both metals, the 1 and 5 mill tokens were changed to pressed cotton fiber. In 1942 the use of cotton was restricted so Mississippi had to do what some other states had done and make the 1 and 5 mill tokens out of plastic.

Missouri issued cardboard 1 and 5 mill tax tokens in 1935, which by 1937 had been changed to zinc. The restrictions on the use of zinc during the war resulted in the 1 and 5 mill tokens being composed of plastic in 1943.

Prior to the war, in 1935, New Mexico issued an aluminum 1 mill and copper 5 mill tokens. In 1941, due once again to the restrictions on the use of aluminum and copper, the 1 and 5 mill tokens were composed of pressed cotton fiber and plastic. The exact date and sequence of issuance is uncertain but most probably cotton fiber first then plastic, as in other states.

Oklahoma utilized aluminum 1 mill and brass 5 mill tokens starting in 1936. By 1941 the use of aluminum and brass was restricted so the 1 and 5 mills were composed of pressed cotton fiber. When the use of cotton was restricted, Oklahoma did something different than the other states and the 1 and 5 mill tokens were composed of pressboard instead of plastic.

Utah utilized aluminum 1 and 5 mill sales tax tokens in 1937. The use of aluminum became restricted, so in 1942 these tokens were composed of plastic and there was also the introduction of plastic 2 mill tokens. The manufacturing of a 2 mill token was a cost savings measure as it reduced the number of 1 mill tokens that had to be manufactured.

Washington is the last state to be examined. It released an aluminum sales tax token in 1935. When the wartime restriction on the use of aluminum was instituted, the tokens were then composed of vulcanized cotton fiber in 1941 and were valued at 1/3 cent. There was a problem with the legibility of the lettering on the vulcanized cotton tokens, so in 1942 the pressed cotton fiber token that was utilized by other states was introduced. Just like the other states, with the cotton restriction in 1943 so plastic tokens were introduced. After the war aluminum tokens were manufactured again.

I have presented a brief overview of the changes in sales tax tokens during World War II. I did not discuss the varieties available for some of the tokens and defer to the *United States Sales Tax Tokens and Stamps: A History and Catalog* for details on the tokens. Most of the tokens have a rarity of 1 and are easily located, but there are some difficult tokens to find like the New Mexico fiber tokens.

World War II brought about many changes in the lives of the citizens in the United States. The changes in the composition of sales tax tokens reminded the citizens, in the nine states listed, every time they went shopping that they were in a wartime economy.

William Myers began collecting coins as a child but began collecting in earnest in the 1990s. His collecting interest includes US coins, World coins and notes, tokens and medals. He became interested in sales tax tokens when he found some in a coin dealer's display case and wanted to know what they were. This led to some research on sales tax tokens and joining the ATTS. For the past few years he has been concentrating on World War II coins and this has expanded into an interest in any monetary item affected by World War II. Tax tokens fit this category very nicely.

Sales Tax Tokens - The Undiscovered Opportunity in Numismatics

by John Ostendorf, R-518



Everyone reading this article is probably a numismatist and an exonumist. All of us collect sales tax tokens, but certainly we collect in other numismatic arenas as well. I have met a number of members of the ATTS and have yet to meet a member who collects only sales tax tokens. We often collect in other areas of exonumia, U.S. coins, foreign coins, paper money, scrip, and/or revenue stamps.

I've read a number of Dave Bowers' books and he often comments on where opportunity lies in numismatics. He still frequently discusses this in his weekly *Coin World* article. Opportunity comes from education and appreciating the currently unappreciated that may some day become appreciated. In this article I make a case that sales tax tokens are the currently unappreciated that could some day be appreciated.

Now please don't mistake this article for investment advice. I sold complete sets of silver U.S. coins when silver was less than \$10 per ounce and plowed that money into sales tax tokens and Civil War tokens. So I am not a guy to listen to if you are looking to make a quick buck. I collect what I like. Hopefully it will ultimately be profitable; but if not, I will have enjoyed the journey.

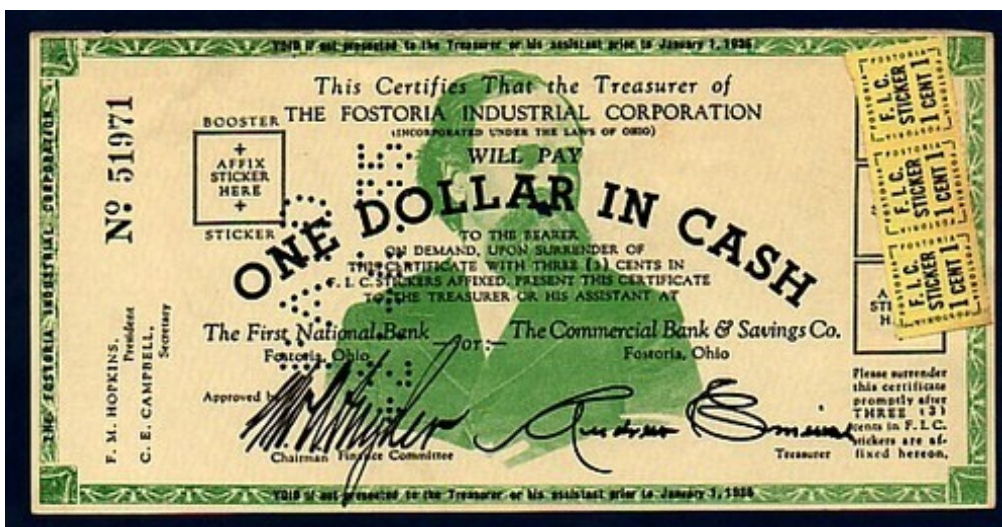
I argue though that sales tax tokens present a fantastic opportunity to enjoy the numismatic journey as well as potential for profit. Sales tax tokens can be purchased for absurdly low prices. Think about it - a R-9 token or sales tax scrip (2-4 known) can be purchased for \$100 or less (when they become available). I've seen R-9 items sell for under \$40. Translate that to a more popular series such as Civil War store cards and you can move the decimal point to the right one space. Translate that rarity to Hard Times Tokens (the depression of a century before) and you can move the decimal two places.

Of course rarity alone doesn't create opportunity. There has to be collectability. There has to be interest. This is where opportunity lies. There are plenty of R-9 tokens. Coal tokens, lumber tokens, merchant tokens, etc. However, potential interest is the key.

Sales tax tokens offer interest to collectors in other numismatic areas; however, many don't really know it yet. Sales tax tokens are the product of the Great Depression.

Another product of this era was depression scrip. Many banks, local businesses, and governments issued emergency scrip when President Roosevelt declared a bank holiday in March of 1933.

Much like their brethren, Depression Scrip, sales tax tokens were created in a variety of materials. Depression scrip was usually made of paper, but was



also made from wood, leather, cardboard, and even clam shells! Sales tax tokens were made of metal, wood, cardboard, fiber and plastic. Sales tax tokens even introduced the concept of holed and square coinage to the American public. Think about how radical some of these ideas were and its hard not to appreciate sales tax tokens for their innovation if nothing else. The only plastic you could get an American to spend today would be Visa, Mastercard, or American Express!

Sales tax tokens should also be of interest to emergency money collectors. This is one reason I began collecting STTs. I also collect Civil War store cards, depression scrip, leprosarium coinage, POW coinage, German notgeld, seige coinage, etc. I've always been amazed by man's ingenuity. In every instance named above, men have developed ingenious ways to meet the needs of commerce. Sales tax tokens are no exception, they are simply unappreciated for their role.

Sales tax tokens should also be of interest to "one per country" collectors. This was another reason I started collecting STTs. I was a "one per country" collector for many years. I think I had every country in existence before about 1991 when various parts of the world fell apart. Not including German municipal notgeld, I had over 300 different countries when I was about to leave a coin show empty handed. There it was that I discovered STTs. Here was state issued money. The lawyer in me knew that state issued money was illegal, which made them even more interesting. I promptly paid about \$20 for about 15 different pieces and was on my way to being a STT collector. Of course these pieces were worth about \$2 total (see above for my disclaimer on my investment advice). Still, I was hooked!



The tokens for New Mexico and Arizona were very artistic. I also had plastic state issued tokens, fiber tokens, and "milk tops" that actually circulated as money! The only other fiber coin in my collection was from Manchukuo, a Chinese puppet state dominated by Japan during World War II. I can think of no other state sponsored plastic coinage or "milk tops" for that matter.

Belatedly, I followed the old adage to "buy the book before the coin" and was intrigued with the possibilities. I learned that overall, state issued STTs were fairly common, but the idea of collecting private scrip was intriguing. I've collected both since then and have formed a pretty impressive collection.

So why are STTs so unappreciated? That's not an easy question to answer. I think part of it is the need for publicity. Monte Dean is working on a new book. New books always bring an area of numismatics into the spotlight. Another reason may be the lack of dealers offering STTs. Other areas of numismatics or exonomia tend to have a few dealers that act to promote the hobby. We all know how frustrating it is to ask a dealer at a coin show if they have any STTs for sale. It's hard enough to find an exonomia dealer, harder still to find one that has any quality STTs for sale.

What will it take to make STTs exciting and to be 'discovered' by the rest of the numismatic world? I'm not sure. This is a question that has been raised a number of times. I guess I answer the question by asking the question. What got people excited about other areas of numismatics? Let's face it, there were some seriously cheap prices in other areas as well. That meant there was a lack of interest that was overcome somehow which led to much higher prices. Monte's new book will certainly help; but I think this is just an area where things will take care of themselves, so be patient and take advantage of the current situation.

So what happens if nobody ever appreciates STTs but us? Worse things could happen. This is a great area of numismatics. Even 80 years after most STTs were issued, we are discovering amazing new finds. There are states where no privately issued scrip are known. Really? Smells like opportunity to me!

In too many areas of numismatics, everything collectable is known. Not so with STTs. You may not have the finest collection, but it is certainly possible to own a R-10 token that nobody else has.

I am a serious collector of Civil War store cards and when I look at what they were selling for 30 years ago, I only wish I had started collecting them back then. Sales tax tokens are from a very interesting era of American history - the Great Depression. Perhaps this era was not as interesting as the Civil War, but I think it was every bit as important as the Hard Times era of the 1830s.

Patience my friends. Take advantage of the disinterest and buy rare and high grade while they are cheap. Sooner or later, STTs will be appreciated for the important numismatic legacies that they are. Until then, collect what you enjoy and enjoy the fact that you can collect so cheaply.

Organizational Report Dec. 1, 2012—Feb. 28, 2013

New member: Terrill M. Williams Reinstatements: None Drops: Gary Locke, Michael Florer

Conversion to Life Membership: Mike Strub Membership 2/28/13: 95 Paid + 6 Donated

Financial Report Dec. 1, 2012—Feb. 28, 2013

Checking Account

Balance 12/1/12	\$1699.73.	Expenses: \$0.00	Income 12/1-31/2012: \$32.00
Balance 1/1/13	\$1731.73	Expenses: \$291.77	Income 1/1-31/2013: \$211.00
Balance 2/1/13	\$1699.73	Expenses: \$27.90	Income 2/1-28/2013: \$132.00
Balance 2/28/13	\$1755.06		

Savings Account Balance 2/28/2013: \$2954.60

Donations: All the donations are appreciated very much and help keep us from needing to raise the dues. Life members, it is okay if you wish to make a donation :) Donations made this period: Donald Thannen, Steven Koczan, Bob Straker, Gene Wood, Peter Volberg, James Bird, Monte Dean.

Article Contest

By Monte Dean, R-384

I was glad to hear that we had five members send in articles for the contest for the drawing. A roll of the die determined that Bill Myers was the lucky winner. Thanks to Nick Sapone, Harold Don Allen, Steve Koczan, and John Ostendorf for submitting articles for this issue as well.



I would guess that it's been quite a while since we had five members all submit articles for the same issue, so I won't take up needed space with my normal blathering. Congratulations to Bill, and thanks again to everyone else who participated.



Trading Post

WANTED: Your classified ad. Each member is entitled to a free ad in each issue. Your ad can be run in more than one issue if you let the editor know. The editor reserves the right to publish ads relative to space limitations. New ads will receive first priority over continuing ads.

United States Sales Tax Tokens and Stamps: A History and Catalog, M.K. Malehorn and T. Davenport, \$39.95 (member price) +\$3.50 Postage and Handling, from Turtle Hill Book Co., P.O. Box 265, Bryantown, MD 20617. Non-member price \$49.95 + Postage and Handling.

ATTS Catalog Supplement Pages: There are 96 supplement pages, 20 are printed both sides, the balance are single sided. There are also 3 color pages. A complete set is \$16.00 ppd, just black and white for \$12.50 ppd or just color sheets for \$4.50 ppd. The same supplements are available on CD for \$8.00 ppd, including color and black and white in Adobe format. Please contact the Editor.

Available for only a very limited time are the few extra copies of the "**ATTS 36 Years of Collecting**" CD. This CD contains an Adobe pdf copy of each of the club newsletters from #1 through #135 all on one CD. Requests will be honored only by postal mail in the order they are received until they are gone. The cost is only \$15.00, this includes shipping. All funds go to the ATTS treasury for use in future projects. Each member is entitled to one CD. Print your name, membership number and mailing address on your correspondence. Mail to: ATTS – 36 Years of Collecting, P.O. Box 14514, Lenexa, KS 66285.

Casino Chips Wanted – Check your top drawer, jewelry box, etc. Buying one chip or whole collections. Please contact Peter Volberg, P.O. Box 3037, Farmingdale, NY 11735 or QUALPETE@aol.com

Looking for a nice example of an **Oklahoma S-7**. Contact Jim Calvert at 569 Diego Rivera Lane, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 or jnicalvert@gmail.com

Paying Cash for all pattern STT's. Also seeking **IL-L3 Astoria, IL-L56 Livingstone**; IL-S1A, S1C, S2B, S3; about 40 other tokens needed in all, email promethium@aol.com or call 248 682-8631 evenings. Mike Strub.

***The following ads will be dropped from the next issue unless you renew your requests
I don't know which ads are supposed to repeat or for how long - editor:***

For Trade or Sale: I have several **Ladd, Illinois tokens** if anyone is missing this in their collection or feel like they need an extra one. I would prefer to trade, but money is fine, too. I'd also be interested in meeting any members who live nearby in CO or WY. Drop me a line @ Loran Frazier / PO Box 600 / Golden, CO / 80402 or loranfrazier@yahoo.com

Kentucky anti-tax button wanted. The one depicting a boy and a girl (M&D #KY-M2). Have many sales tax tokens to offer in trade or will buy. Michael Florer, 1805 Biglerville Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-8030 or mrflorer@comcast.net

War tax tokens wanted. Looking for all varieties of war tax tokens inscribed "SODA CHECK." Also interested in anything else related to the federal tax on soft drinks and ice cream during the World War I era. Willing to trade items from my 25-year collection of sales tax tokens. Michael Florer, 1805 Biglerville Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-830 or mrflorer@comcast.net

Token For Sale: Payne Bus Service from Muncie In. #600e \$1.00 ppd. Leo Schiltz, 196 Crestview Lane, Dyer, IN, 46311.

For Sale: Canada / Meat / Viande / Ration - Blue Fibre Canadian Ration token. Obverse and Reverse are the same. It measures about 22mm with a 5mm center hole. \$1.00 + SASE. Steven Kawalec P.O. Box 4281, Clifton, NJ 07012 Owlproowler@aol.com

ATTS General Information

The ATTS Newsletter is the official quarterly publication of the American Tax Token Society and it is mailed from Lenexa, Kansas, USA as a first class mailing. The newsletter is published for its members. Copies of the newsletter are available to schools, universities, museums and other educational or related organizations upon request. The request must be made in writing on the organizational letterhead and signed by a legal representative of that organization.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors of each specific article. Those opinions may not reflect the same opinions of the editor or other society officers.

The society's officer's serve without compensation of any kind other than direct expenses incurred when conducting official society business.

The American Tax Token Society is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt, educational and research social club. The ATTS is registered as a 501(c)(3) organization under the IRS guidelines. All donations are tax-deductible subject to IRS guidelines.

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Articles, news, information and general education materials are always being sought for publication. Send your submissions to the editor. If the article is from a source other than the submitter then please include all the information necessary so that the editor can obtain permission to reprint the article. If we can't get permission we can't print the article! No payment of any kind is given for any article submitted or published.

Information about membership, address changes, dues and donations should be addressed to the club secretary-treasurer. Membership dues are \$12 (U.S. addresses only), \$12 (U.S.) for Canadian addresses and \$15 (U.S.) for the U.K. and Europe. Write for additional rates depending on the country. Lifetime membership dues are \$160 (U.S. addresses only), \$180 (U.S.) for Canadian addresses and \$300 (U.S.) for U.K. and Europe. The membership calendar year begins in January.

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ATTS NEWSLETTER

Official Quarterly Publication of
The American Tax Token Society
Mike Strub, Editor